

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A razor blade cartridge comprising:
a plastic body including a leading edge, a trailing edge, and a series of guard ribs integrally formed with the body and spaced away from opposing ends of said body;
~~one~~ two or more cutting blades coupled to said body and having portions encompassed by said guard ribs, and wherein each of said cutting blades includes a cutting edge, and
wherein one or more of said guard ribs extends from said body adjacent said leading edge to said body adjacent said trailing edge such that said one or more guard ribs is continuous with said body adjacent said leading edge and said body adjacent said trailing edge,
and wherein said one or more guard ribs covers at least a portion of the cutting edge of at least one of said cutting blades.
2. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs are spaced apart from one another.
3. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs are evenly spaced apart from one another.
4. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs overlie the cutting edge of at least one of said cutting blades.
5. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs project beyond the cutting edge of at least one of said cutting blades.
6. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a guard bar at the leading edge of said plastic body.

7. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 6, wherein said guard bar comprises a series of depressions formed at an upper surface thereof.

8. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 7, wherein each said depression in said guard bar includes a projection substantially centered therein.

9. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a cap at the trailing edge of said plastic body.

10. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a lubricating strip attached to said cap.

11. (Currently amended) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~one~~ two or more cutting blades are substantially parallel to one another and to the leading and trailing edges of said plastic body.

12. (Currently amended) The cartridge as claimed in claim 11, wherein said guard ribs are substantially perpendicular to said ~~one~~ two or more cutting blades.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs have uniform dimensions.

15. (Original) The cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guard ribs comprise a center guard rib and at least one pair of guard ribs on opposing sides of said center guard rib.

16-40. (Cancelled)